Quesnel Lake Park

Management Plan

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BRITISH COLUMBIA BC Parks

Quesnel Lake Park

Management Plan

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Management Plan Purpose

The purpose of this management plan is to guide the management of Quesnel Lake Park. This management plan:

- articulates the key features and values of Quesnel Lake Park;
- identifies appropriate types and levels of management activities;
- determines appropriate levels of use and development;
- establishes a long-term vision and management objectives for the park; and
- responds to current and predicted threats and opportunities by defining a set of management strategies to achieve the management vision and objectives.

1.2 Planning Area

Quesnel Lake Park, 992 hectares, is located approximately mid-way between Kamloops and Prince George west of Cariboo Mountains Park and Wells Gray Park (Figure 1). The park consists of a system of seven sites dispersed along the shoreline of Quesnel Lake, ranging in size from 34 hectares to 365 hectares (see Table below, Figure 2, Appendix 2). The park sites include lake foreshore of 10 metres width (see Appendix 2).

Sites of Quesnel Lake Park:	Area (hectares)
Bouldery Creek Site	87
Faux Bay Site	81
Horsefly Bay Site	267
Peninsula Bay Site	92
Roaring River Site	365
Watt Creek Site	66
Welcome Point Site	34

Quesnel Lake can be accessed by secondary roads from the City of Quesnel, approximately 80 kilometres on the Quesnel Hydraulic Road to Likely Road, or from Williams Lake, approximately 50 kilometres on the Likely Road. Except for the Faux Bay Site, Quesnel Lake Park is only accessible by water with limited beach access during low water on the lake. The western part of the Faux Bay Site can be accessed through

resource roads. Although resource roads run adjacent to Horsefly Bay Site and Roaring River Site, there is no easy direct access to the park sites from these roads.

The main features of the park include sandy beaches, wetlands, waterfalls, old-growth forest stands and wildlife habitats including spawning habitat for Sockeye Salmon and Kokanee Salmon and foraging sites for Grizzly Bear. All of these features are representative of landscapes around Quesnel Lake.

Quesnel Lake Park also contains, and is adjacent to, habitat for the southern mountain population of the Mountain Caribou.

1.3 Legislative Framework

Establishment of Quesnel Lake Park was recommended through the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan (CCLUP) Goal 2 (Special Feature) process and the Horsefly Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP). The park was formally established as a Class A park on March 14, 2013 by the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Amendment Act, 2013*. The park is named and described in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

Class A parks are Crown lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public. Development in Class A parks is limited to that which is necessary to maintain the park's recreational values. Some activities that existed at the time the park was established (e.g., grazing, hay cutting) may be allowed to continue in certain Class A parks[1] but commercial resource extraction or development activities are not permitted (e.g., logging, mining or hydroelectric development).

[1] Applies only to Class A parks listed in Schedule D of the *Protected Areas of British Columbia Act*.

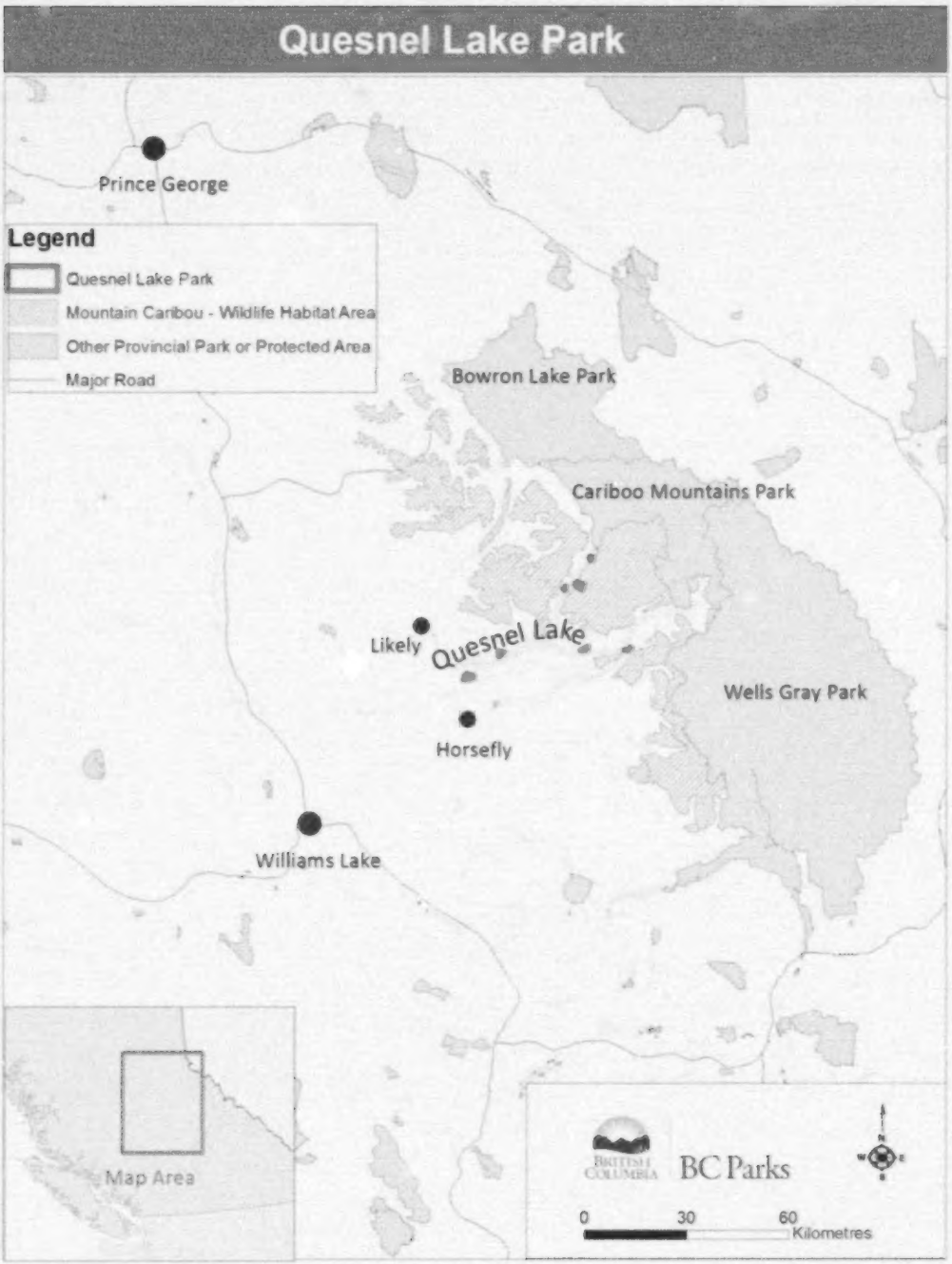

Figure 1: Context Map for Quesnel Lake Park

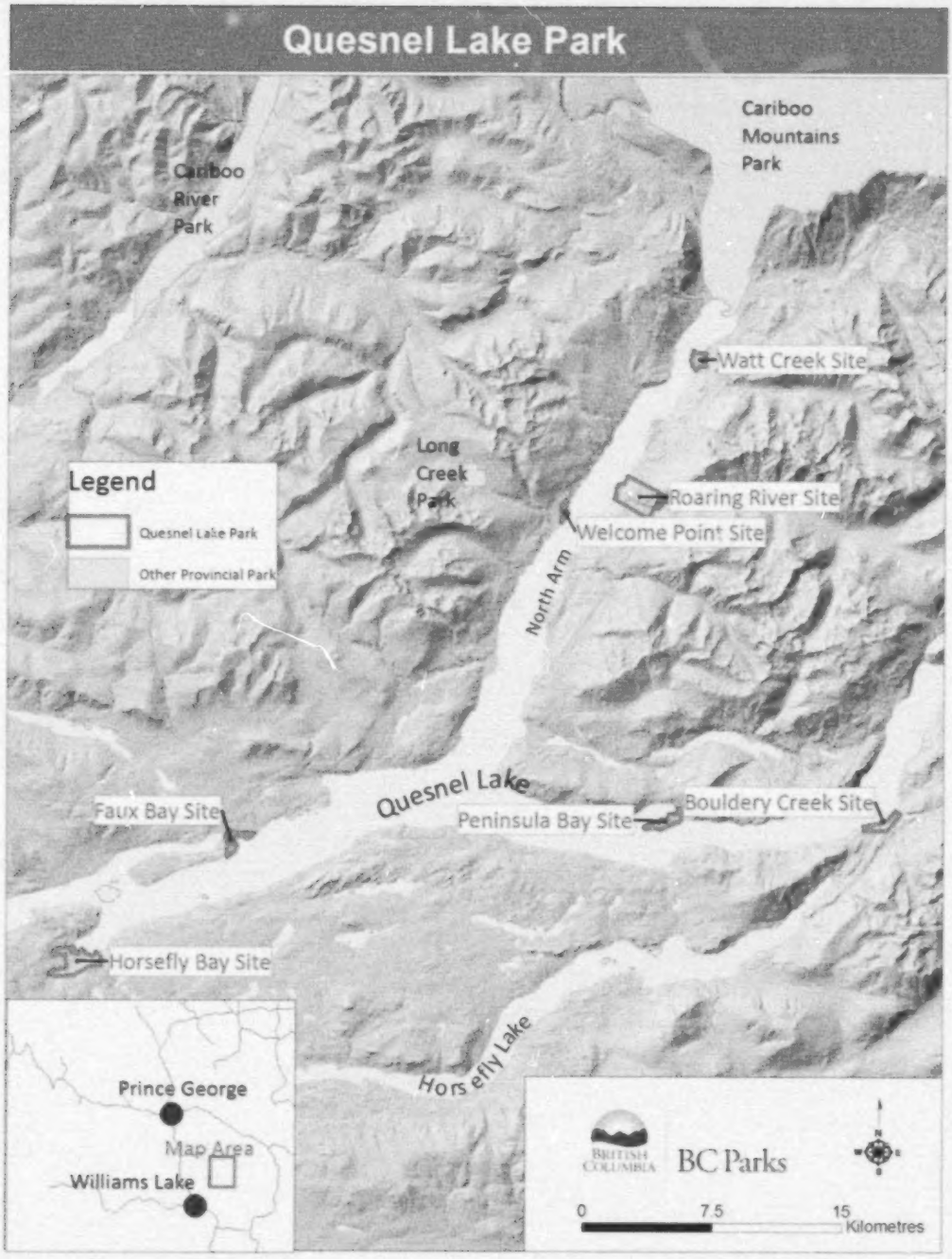

Figure 2: Map of Quesnel Lake Park

1.4 Adjacent Land and Marine Use

The terrestrial lands and waters adjacent to Quesnel Lake Park almost completely consist of Crown land with various designated and tenured uses as described below. The Horsefly Bay Site, Faux Bay Site, and Welcome Point Site are partially surrounded by private land (see Appendix 2).

Quesnel Lake Park is partially surrounded by forest lands, including tenured lands. Forestry is a historic and continuing activity in the watershed surrounding Quesnel Lake and includes operating areas adjacent to the park. Except for the Peninsula Bay Site, resource roads occur in close proximity to all sites of Quesnel Lake Park. Land Use Objectives for the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan Area, including those for Old Growth Management Areas, are being applied in these operating areas adjacent to the park. These operating areas also partially fall within Wildlife Habitat Areas for Mountain Cariboo established under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (see Figure 1).

Range tenures surround all sites of Quesnel Lake Park except for the Faux Bay Site. The Horsefly Bay Site and Faux Bay Site of Quesnel Lake Park border on several mining tenures. When the park was established, portions of mineral tenures overlapping the proposed park were excluded from the park. The sites of Quesnel Lake Park are partially or completely surrounded by tenures for recreation including heli skiing and guided nature viewing.

A designated use area authorized for cultural significance under section 17 of the *Land Act* borders on Faux Bay Site (see section 1.6). Map reserves for fish and wildlife management authorized under section 16 of the *Land Act* border on Horsefly Bay Site, Bouldery Creek Site, and Roaring River Site.

A license of occupation for a community facility separates the two parts of Faux Bay Site of Quesnel Lake Park. The facility comprises a camp of the Likely Chapel Bible Camp Society (Figure 5).

Marine activities adjacent to the park are mostly limited to recreational boating on Quesnel Lake.

1.5 Management Commitments/Agreements

During the implementation of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan[2], the following general guidance was provided for park management in the land use plan area:

- A protected area, regardless of subsequent designation, is land on which the dominant ecological values should be protected and that uses, such as recreation, cattle grazing (except the Junction Sheep Range), hunting, trapping and backcountry tourism, will be allowed.

[2] Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan 90 Day Implementation Process Final Report, February 1995

- Hunting and trapping will continue to be allowed in all new protected areas, regardless of subsequent designation by the Province.
- Many of the major new protected areas are available, in principle and where appropriate, for commercial tourism and recreation. These development opportunities will be identified during area-specific management planning which will also recognize the protection of the special natural values of each area and the provision for public non-commercial recreation.

Protected areas, such as Quesnel Lake Park, recommended under the Goal 2 (Special Feature) objective[3] protect special natural, cultural heritage, and recreational features, including rare and endangered species and critical habitats, outstanding or unique botanical, zoological, geological, and paleontological features, outstanding or fragile cultural heritage features, and outstanding recreational features.

During development of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan, Quesnel Lake Park was recommended for protection under the Goal 2 (Special Feature) objective to protect special features representative of landscapes surrounding Quesnel Lake as well as significant for local and regional recreation (see detail in sections 1.3 and 2.1).

1.6 Land Uses, Tenures and Interests

Some tenures predate park establishment and include six traplines and five guide outfitter territories. A defunct cabin is also associated with the trapline at the Welcome Point Site of Quesnel Lake Park. These tenures are authorized under the *Wildlife Act*, and also must be authorized by a park use permit under the *Park Act*.

A tenure for commercial recreation activities such as guided nature viewing also predates park establishment. The commercial recreation tenure was before park establishment authorized under the *Land Act* and must now be authorized through a park use permit under the *Park Act*.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations administers three range tenures for grazing that predate park establishment. These tenures are authorized under the *Range Act* and are associated with the guide outfitters. Except for the Faux Bay Site, these range tenures overlap with all of the sites in the park.

1.7 Management Planning Process

BC Parks initiated a management planning process for Quesnel Lake Park in the spring of 2014. For each of the seven sites of the park, background information was compiled that identifies important natural and cultural values, as well as recreational and economic interests to be incorporated into the management plan. As part of an initial comment period, BC Parks invited First Nations, stakeholders, and the general public to

[3] A Protected Areas Strategy for British Columbia, 1993.

provide information on the values, future direction, activities and future management objectives and strategies for Quesnel Lake Park. Input received during the public review of the draft management plan was taken into consideration in the development of this final management plan.

1.8 Relationship with First Nations

The Province and First Nations governments are working toward a relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights. This management plan proposes to develop working relationships between BC Parks and First Nations in a number of areas to ensure that management of the park considers their traditional uses.

Quesnel Lake Park lies within the asserted traditional territory of eight First Nations: Xatśūll First Nation, Northern Secwepemc Tribal Council, Neskonlith Indian Band, Tsilhqot'in National Government (Engagement Zone A), Lhtako Dene Nation, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council, Williams Lake Indian Band, and Canim Lake Indian Band.

1.9 Relationship with Communities

Quesnel Lake Park is in the Cariboo Regional District. The communities closest to the park are Likely and Horsefly. Likely is located at the west arm of Quesnel Lake and Horsefly is located approximately 15 kilometres south of Quesnel Lake (Figure 1). Many residents who live in these communities share an interest in the management of Quesnel Lake Park.

Ongoing engagement and outreach with the local government and its two communities will be required to ensure that residents are aware of, and supportive of the Quesnel Lake Park Management Plan. This will include continued dialogue with residents of the regional district including Likely and Horsefly and any other provincial and/or local interest groups or local governments who have expressed interest in the use and management of the park.

Figure 3: Picture of Horsefly Bay Site

2.0 Values and Roles of the Quesnel Lake Park

2.1 Significance in the Protected Areas System

Quesnel Lake Park was primarily established to protect special features of local and regional significance for recreation. As well, these features are representative of landscapes surrounding Quesnel Lake including shorelines, bays, peninsulas, waterfalls (such as a 15 metre waterfall at the Roaring River), wetlands, and large tree ecological communities. A secondary reason for the establishment of the park was to protect locally important habitats for spawning salmonids and Grizzly Bears.

Quesnel Lake Park is significant in the protected areas system because, together with Cedar Point Park, it contains the only protected sites along Quesnel Lake; a lake which is provincially unique because it is, with up to 610 metres depth, the deepest lake in British Columbia and possibly the deepest fiord lake in the world.

The park is also locally significant in the protected areas system because it contributes to the conservation of the habitat of the red-listed southern mountain population of the Mountain Caribou.

2.2 Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Values

Quesnel Lake Park is completely in the Quesnel Highland Ecosection[4] of which approximately 115,490 hectares or 15% are provincially protected. Only 0.1 % of this is within the park. This ecosection is a transitional highland area, sandwiched between the lower plateaus to the west and the higher rugged mountains to the east. There are remnants of highly dissected plateaus of moderate relief gradually rising from west to east. Glaciers covered all of this area which resulted in greatly rounded summits.

The park falls entirely within the Interior Cedar Hemlock (ICH) biogeoclimatic zone[5]. The ICH zone extends from valley bottoms to elevations of about 1,250 metres and is often dominated by western redcedar, western hemlock, hybrid white spruce, subalpine fir, and Douglas-fir. The understory is relatively dense tree regeneration and a sparse to moderate shrub and herb cover. Common shrub species include black huckleberry, oval-leaved blueberry, devil's club, falsebox, thimbleberry, and black gooseberry. Common herbs include three-leaved foamflower, oak fern, five-leaved bramble, and one-sided wintergreen.

The park contributes to the provincial protection of two variants of the ICH zone. Although the park is relatively small, it contributes substantially to the provincial protection of the Horsefly Moist Cool Variant (ICH mk 3) (256 hectares or 33%). The total provincial protection of this variant equals 768 hectares or 1%. The ICH mk 3 consists of ecosystems with infrequent major natural disturbance events and occurs primarily on gently rolling plateau topography. The park also contributes 3% of the provincial protection of the Quesnel Wet Cool Variant (ICH wk2). The total provincial protection of this variant amounts to 23,800 hectares or 11%. The ICH wk2 consists of ecosystems with rare major "disturbance" events and occurs in hilly to mountainous topography.

Much of the area in the park is forested with a mix of old forests, younger forest and wetlands. 47% or 410 hectares of the park are in old forests that are greater or equal to 250 years old. Particularly, the Watt Creek Site and Roaring River Site contain extensive communities of larger old forest trees. Some of the old forests in the park, particularly at the Watt Creek Site, were formerly designated as Old Growth Management Areas under the *Land Act*. The establishment of the park supersedes this designation and protects these forests under the *Park Act*.

The park supports a range of wildlife including nesting wood ducks, cavity nesting birds, moose, deer, furbearers, and particularly Grizzly Bear as many of the seven sites of the park

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[4] British Columbia's ecoregion classification system divides the province into broad areas of similar climate, physiography, oceanography, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife potential. Ecosections are the narrowest in scope of the geographic units within this classification system.

[5] British Columbia's biogeoclimatic classification system divides ecosystems into biogeoclimatic (BEC) zones representing climatic variations associated with specific types of soils, plant and animal communities. Within zones, subzones and variants reflect finer-scale climatic variations.

are capable of supporting important Grizzly Bear habitat. The majority of the park has high capability rating for Grizzly Bear Habitat[6]. Only the Bouldery Creek Site and Horsefly Bay Site have mostly medium capability rating. Grizzly Bears particularly use the Bouldery Creek Site, Roaring River Site, and Watt Creek Site for early season foraging and late season access to salmon.

The habitats of Quesnel Lake Park support at least two non-aquatic species at risk. Except for the Horsefly Bay Site, the park falls within the occurrence range of the red-listed southern mountain population of the Mountain Caribou. To protect habitat for Mountain Caribou, two of the park's sites were protected as Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA 5-109) for Mountain Caribou under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and since establishment of the park, under the *Park Act*. The Horsefly Bay Site supports the blue-listed tender sedge.

Various sites within the park contain important habitat for fish species which support a host of species including Brassy Minnow, Burbot, Dolly Varden, Leopard Dace, Mountain Whitefish, Northern Pikeminnow, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, Redside Shiner, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Kokanee, as well as the blue-listed Bull Trout. Some of the streams, shores and wetlands of the park have been designated before the establishment of the park as critical habitat for salmon and Bull Trout[7] as part of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Order under the authority of the *Land Act*. These habitats are now protected under the *Park Act*.

Bouldery Creek, Horsefly River, Roaring River, and Watt Creek sites are particularly important for spawning and rearing Sockeye, Kokanee, and potentially other fish species. Sockeye Salmon and Kokanee also use the lake shores of the Bouldery Creek Site, Roaring River Site, Watt Creek Site, and Welcome Point Site for spawning.

The park is part of a mosaic of habitat protection components connecting habitats of aquatic and terrestrial species. Although the seven park sites are relatively small, they connect with the Wildlife Habitat Area for Mountain Caribou where timber harvesting is restricted (see Figure 1). The Wildlife Habitat Area in turn connects with a large protected area complex consisting of Bowron Lake Park, Cariboo Mountains Park, and Wells Gray Park. Together, these linkages enhance habitat connectivity for aquatic and terrestrial species.

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[6] Data Source for Quesnel Lake Park Sites except Horsefly Bay Site: 2011. Legal Order Regulations Map. Cariboo-Chilcotin Land-Use Plan. (Map scale 1:250 000).
Data Source for Horsefly Bay Site: 1995. Habitat Capability for the Cariboo Region. (Map Scale 1:250,000)

[7] 2011. Legal Order Regulations Map. Cariboo-Chilcotin Land Use Plan. (Map scale 1:250 000).

2.3 Cultural Values

First Nations likely use the park for hunting, berry picking, gathering, fishing and other uses of spiritual significance. The eastern part of the Faux Bay Site has been designated as a significant site for cultural use. There are at least two recorded archaeological sites in the park.

2.4 Recreation Values

As a recreation destination, the park is mainly focused on water-accessed backcountry activities because, except for the Faux Bay Site, the park is only accessible by water. Road access to the western part of the Faux Bay Site is possible via resource roads whereas access to the eastern part can only occur through the bible camp that separates the two parts of the Faux Bay Site (Figure 5). Access is further limited through the relatively rough road access to Quesnel Lake via secondary roads from Likely.

Key recreational opportunities occurring at most sites of the park include motorized boating, kayaking, canoeing, and wildlife and nature viewing including viewing of waterfalls, large tree ecological communities and other features representative of the vast landscape around Quesnel Lake. The waterfalls at the Roaring River Site, large tree ecological communities at the Watt Creek Site and Roaring River Site attract local and regional nature viewers. Guided nature and wildlife viewing are also offered.

Existing opportunities for guided nature and wildlife viewing in the park are part of commercial recreation opportunities spreading over a much larger geographic area beyond the park's seven sites (see section 1.4).

Additional recreation opportunities include guided and unguided hunting and fishing. Fishing for Rainbow Trout and other species is particularly popular at the mouth of the Roaring River Site.

Recreational opportunities in the park are somewhat limited due to steep terrain and wet ground. Most sites of Quesnel Lake Park are unsuitable for camping because of wet and otherwise unsuitable terrain and/or frequent use by Grizzly Bears.

Sheltered mooring is possible at the Faux Bay Site, Peninsula Bay Site, and to a lesser extent the Welcome Point Site.

The park is a destination for local and some limited regional recreation. However, present and historic visitor numbers are unknown. There are currently no recreational facilities, established campsites, or maintained hiking trails in the park. There is a short unmaintained hiking trail at the Roaring River Site leading from the beach to the waterfall.

2.5 Climate Change

In British Columbia, climate change effects vary by region. Quesnel Lake Park falls within the Cariboo Regional District for which predictive[8] modelling indicates that, from 2040 to 2069, mean annual temperature, annual precipitation, frost-free days, and annual growing degree days will likely increase substantially; whereas snowfall and summer precipitation will likely decrease substantially. These climatic changes will likely result in changes to ecosystem composition and function across the landscape.

Along with other possible ramifications, these projected climatic changes may result in increasing water level and temperature fluctuations in Quesnel Lake and in the streams that flow through Quesnel Lake Park. These aquatic changes could in turn affect the fish species that depend on the park's aquatic habitats. Yet, no research specific to Quesnel Lake supports this assertion.

Protected areas have a role in mitigating the impacts of climate change by naturally storing carbon, reducing non-climate stressors and providing a refuge for species that migrate when conditions become unfavourable in their existing habitats. Large, intact forest ecosystems such as those found in the protected area complexes moderate the local climate, which helps species survive the effects of climate change. Quesnel Lake Park is part of a large protected area complex made up of Bowron Lake Park, Cariboo Mountains Park and Wells Gray Park which are linked to Quesnel Lake Park through a Wildlife Habitat Area for Mountain Caribou where timber harvesting is restricted (see Figure 1). By protecting several large, intact and contiguous watersheds that support a range of habitats from lake/to subalpine, this complex plays a significant role in the enhancement of habitat connectivity, species and ecosystem adaptation in the face of natural disturbances, and amelioration of long-term impacts associated with climate change.

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[8] Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium. Plan2Adapt. Web based analysis tool accessed in 2015. URL at: http://www.pacificclimate.org/analysis-tools/plan2adapt

3.0 Management Direction

3.1 Management Vision

Quesnel Lake Park protects First Nation cultural values, intact foraging sites for Grizzly Bear, and beach and river spawning habitats for fish including Kokanee and Sockeye Salmon. Waterfalls, beach shorelines, and unique large-tree forest communities are intact, continue to inspire visitors, and remain representative of the Quesnel Lake landscape. Visitors continue to enjoy low-impact backcountry recreation including boating and wildlife and nature viewing.

3.2 Management Objectives and Strategies

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
It is desired to protect First Nation cultural values in the park.	**Management Objective: Protect and maintain First Nations cultural heritage sites and features.** **Management Strategies:** Identify threats, and if necessary, implement measures to maintain and protect cultural heritage sites and features. These measures may include: site maintenance, public information initiatives, monitoring sensitive sites, and focusing uses away from sensitive sites. Work with First Nations to include traditional place and feature names on maps and signage where appropriate.
It is desired to enhance the visitor experience and provide for safe recreational activities while maintaining cultural and biodiversity values.	**Management Objective: Provide safe low-impact recreational opportunities.** **Management Strategies:** Allow low-impact backcountry recreation compatible with protecting cultural values, Mountain Caribou, and Grizzly Bear habitat, and other biodiversity values. Such opportunities include camping, boating, hiking, and nature and wildlife viewing. Fishing and hunting are also acceptable. Acceptable commercial tourism opportunities include guide outfitting (including fishing), and guided nature and wildlife tours. If and where appropriate, work with applicable agencies, such as the ministry responsible for recreation sites and trails, to integrate Quesnel Lake Park into a kayaking and canoeing circuit at Quesnel Lake. Such work may include sharing of information and making appropriate campsites accessible to kayakers. Consider establishing mooring sites and/or small docks at the western part of Faux Bay Site, Peninsula Bay Site, and potentially Welcome Point Site without impacting cultural and biodiversity values (see

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
	section 2.4 on limitations for Welcome Point Site). Do not provide any boat launches because of unsuitable terrain and highly fluctuating water table in Quesnel Lake. Support designation of a picnic area at the western part of Faux Bay Site only, and backcountry campsites at the western part of Faux Bay Site and Welcome Point Site only, because the other sites of the park are unsuitable for picnicking and/or camping due to unsuitable terrain, sensitive wildlife habitat, and/or bear hazard. Allow wilderness-style camping at undesignated sites in areas where cultural values are not impacted and without significant bear hazard, such as some lake beaches away from river deltas. Close sites to wilderness-style camping if impacts on biodiversity values and/or bear hazard become evident. Periodically monitor the park visitor traffic at the Faux Bay Site and work with the Likely Chapel Bible Camp Society to ensure that park visitors don't impact the society's camp adjacent to the Faux Bay Site (Figure 4). If necessary, limit wilderness-style camping to the westernmost part of Faux Bay Site and/or implement other measures to avoid such impacts. At the western part of Faux Bay Site, allow maintenance of the access road to the beach (see Figure 5), and construction of a visitor information shelter, appropriate for the wilderness setting. Facilities must be positioned above the high water mark, away from fragile riparian and lake habitat, and critical bear habitat. Allow maintenance of the trapping cabin at the Welcome Point Site. Besides the trapping cabin at the Welcome Point Site, do not allow any other fixed roof accommodation facilities elsewhere in the park because such facilities are likely to detrimentally impact bear populations and recreational values in this small park. Continue to allow guided wildlife and nature viewing at all sites of the park. Consider maintaining the trail at the Roaring River Site for guided ground-based wildlife and nature viewing away from fragile riparian and aquatic lake habitat, freshwater wetlands, critical bear and caribou habitat, and areas with high bear hazard. Do not construct any trails at any other park sites because of the fragile habitat and unsuitable terrain. Conduct periodic bear hazard assessments for current and future facilities, the trail at the Roaring River Site, and recreational activities. Monitor human-bear interactions and implement measures to reduce the potential for negative human-bear interactions where necessary.

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
	Inform park visitors through signage and/or other adequate communication strategies about potential bear hazards and backcountry and boating safety etiquettes where appropriate. Ensure that all recreational activities in the park, as for example nature viewing and hunting, are compatible. If necessary for public safety, support temporal and spatial separation of activities. For example, during hunting season, avoid nature viewing where hunting occurs if necessary.
Manage human use to prevent site level disturbance and declines in the abundance and distribution of the park's flora and fauna, especially ecosystems, ecological communities and species of conservation concern.	**Management Objective:** **Maintain healthy old-growth forest communities and fish and wildlife populations for all species presently utilizing park habitats.** **Management Strategies:** Periodically monitor activities to determine if wildlife and habitat impacts are occurring, particularly regarding nesting birds, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Caribou, rare plants, and old-growth forest communities. If undesirable impacts on wildlife or habitats are occurring, it may be necessary to relocate or seasonally restrict recreational uses. Work with fish and wildlife managers to manage fish and wildlife habitats and maintain healthy old-growth forest communities and other habitats particularly for salmonids, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Caribou, and other species of conservation concern. Prior to the development of infrastructure or approval of new permitted activities (e.g., nature and wildlife viewing), complete site specific inventories to assess bear hazard, rare and at risk ecosystems, ecological communities and species of conservation concern. Do not allow building of new roads because of their likely detrimental impacts on the park's biodiversity and recreation values. Consider the acquisition, on a willing seller-willing buyer basis and if resources allow, of private property immediately west and north of the Horsefly Bay Site (Figure 5) to increase protection of fragile ecosystems at and adjacent to Horsefly Bay Site. Monitor adjacent lake and land use activities for potential impacts on the park's ecological and recreation values. Where adjacent lake and land uses, such as timber harvesting activities, have the potential to impact the park, build relationships with tenure holders and federal and provincial agencies with interests in lake and terrestrial areas adjacent to the park. To avoid introduction of invasive species, support the development of an invasive species program and explore partnerships with existing programs, increase public awareness, and conduct field assessments to

Management Context	Management Objectives and Strategies
	locate and eradicate invasive species. Support the development of an oil spill preparedness plan for Quesnel Lake Park. Encourage appropriate agencies to develop a water quality monitoring program for freshwater areas in conjunction with other regional initiatives.
Some of the park's foreshore and adjacent upland terrestrial portion may be affected by climate change, but there is substantial uncertainty regarding the impacts and outcomes of those changes on the park values.	**Management Objective: Improve knowledge and understanding of the effects of climate change on the park's foreshore and terrestrial environments.** **Management Strategies:** Support research and other efforts to monitor and evaluate the effects of climate change on park values, particularly wetlands, spawning habitat, old growth forests, shoreline recreation features, and other values sensitive to increasing temperature and precipitation and other predicted regional climatic changes (see section 2.5). When evaluating the effects of climate change, consider the regional context and include nearby protected areas in any analyses. At the site level, identify shoreline areas that may be sensitive to changes in lake water levels and temperature and monitor the effects of changing water levels on shoreline facilities. If possible, limit human influence and intervention in any identified sensitive shoreline sections and adjacent upland components to avoid speeding up and worsening the effects of climate change.
Land uses and activities occurring in the park require appropriate permits.	**Management Objective:** **Ensure that land uses and activities in the park are appropriately authorized.** **Management Strategies:** Ensure permits are issued for all land uses, tenures, and activities in the park which require authorization under the *Park Act*.

3.3 Zoning Plan

In general terms, a zoning plan divides a park into logical management units within which certain activities/uses are permitted and a particular set of management objectives apply. Zones are designed to reflect the physical environment, existing patterns of use and the desired level of management and development in a given management unit.

Quesnel Lake Park is zoned in its entirety as Nature Recreation. This zone maintains scenic values and provides for backcountry recreation in a natural environment.

4.0 Plan Implementation

4.1 Implementation Plan

Specific projects will be evaluated for priority in relation to the overall protected areas system. Where needed, BC Parks will seek project-specific funding and partners to implement management strategies.

4.2 High Priority Strategies

The following strategies have been identified as high priorities for implementation:

1. Allow low-impact backcountry recreation compatible with protecting cultural values, Grizzly Bear habitat, and other biodiversity values. Such opportunities include camping, boating, hiking, and nature and wildlife viewing. Fishing and hunting are also acceptable recreational activities. Acceptable commercial tourism opportunities include guide outfitting (including fishing), and guided nature and wildlife tours.
2. If and where appropriate, work with applicable agencies, such as the ministry responsible for recreation sites and trails, to integrate Quesnel Lake Park into a kayaking and canoeing circuit at Quesnel Lake.
3. Periodically monitor activities to determine if wildlife and habitat impacts are occurring, particularly regarding nesting birds, Grizzly Bear, Mountain Caribou, rare plants, and old-growth forest communities. If undesirable impacts to wildlife or habitats are occurring, it may be necessary to relocate or seasonally restrict recreational uses.
4. Ensure that all recreational activities in the park, as for example nature viewing and hunting, are compatible and safe. If necessary for public safety, support temporal and spatial separation of activities.

4.3 Plan Assessment

In order to ensure that the management direction for Quesnel Lake Park remains relevant and effective, BC Parks staff will ensure that the management plan is assessed by BC Parks staff on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 5 years). Minor administrative updates may be identified and completed at any time (e.g., correct spelling errors and update protected area details where needed), and will be documented according to BC Parks guidelines.

If an internal assessment reveals that the management plan requires more significant updating or substantial new management direction is needed, a formal review by BC Parks may be initiated to determine whether the management plan requires an amendment or if a new management plan is required.

The management plan amendment process or development of a new management plan includes an opportunity for public input.

Appendix 1: Appropriate Use Table

The following table summarizes existing and potential future uses in Quesnel Lake Park that are and are not appropriate in the Nature Recreation Zone. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all uses that may be considered in this protected area in the future.

Please note that appropriate uses may be geographically restricted (i.e., only allowed in certain areas of Quesnel Lake Park) or are only appropriate at certain times of the year. Please ensure that you are well informed of any use restrictions as indicated in the table. It is important to review relevant sections of the management plan when interpreting the table.

Appropriate Use Table Legend		
N	**Not an appropriate use**	The use is not appropriate in the indicated zone. If the use currently exists but the management planning process has determined that the use is no longer appropriate in all or part of the park, the management plan will include strategies for ending the activity (e.g., phasing out, closing).
Y	**May be an appropriate use**	Some level or extent of this use may be appropriate in the zone indicated. The management plan may provide guidance on the appropriate level of use and may address specific restrictions or planned enhancements (e.g. capacity, designated areas for a particular activity, party size, time of year, etc.). For new or expanded uses, this symbol indicates that the use may be considered for further evaluation. The appropriateness of some activities may not be confirmed until a further assessment (e.g., BC Parks Impact Assessment Process) or evaluation process (e.g., park use permit adjudication) is completed.
Y1	**Appropriate use as per section 30 of the *Park Act***	The use is not normally appropriate in a park but was occurring pursuant to an encumbrance or Crown authorization at the time the park was established and is allowed to continue.

Activity/Facility	Nature Recreation Zone	Comments
Recreational Activities/Uses		
Aircraft Landing/Takeoff	Y	
Boating (human powered and electrical)	Y	
Boating (combustion engine)	Y	
Camping (wilderness style - undesignated sites)	Y	Supported if no significant bear hazard and no evidence of impact to cultural or biodiversity values. See section 3.2 for other potential limitations for the western part of Faux Bay Site.
Fishing	Y	
Hiking	Y	At the Roaring River Site (see section 3.2).
Hunting	Y	
Skiing (backcountry)	Y	
Recreation Facilities/Infrastructure		
Boat Launches	N	The park is not suitable for boat launches because of highly fluctuating water levels in Quesnel Lake.
Boat Wharves and Docks	Y	See section 3.2 for recommended sites for docks.
Cabins, Huts and Shelters (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	Only maintenance of the trapping cabin at Welcome Point Site. See section 3.2 for details.
Lodges (as defined in the Fixed Roof Accommodation Policy)	N	
Campground	Y	At the western part of Faux Bay Site and Welcome Point Site only.
Picnic Area	Y	At the western part of Faux Bay Site only.
Mooring Buoys	Y	At the western part of Faux Bay Site, Peninsula Bay Site, and Welcome Point Site.
Roads	Y	Maintenance of the existing road at the western part Faux Bay Site only (see section 3.2 for details).
Trail	Y	Maintenance of the existing trail at the Roaring River site only. See section 3.2 for details.
Visitor Information Shelter	Y	Only small scale basic facility at the western part of Faux Bay Site. See section 3.2 for details.
Other Activities/Infrastructure		
Grazing	Y1	As per section 30 of the *Park Act*.
Trapping	Y	

Appendix 2: Site Maps

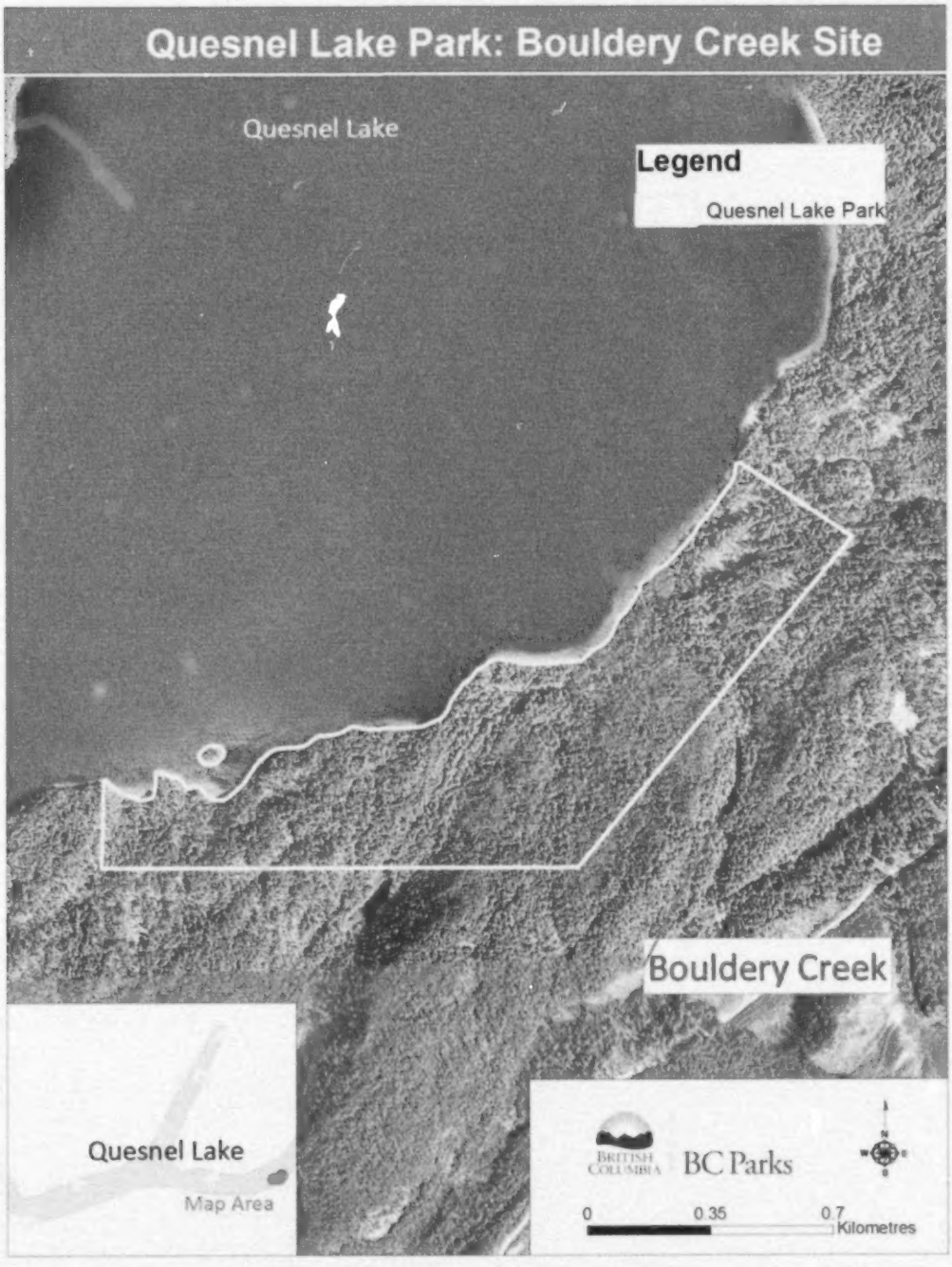

Figure 4: Map of the Bouldery Creek Site

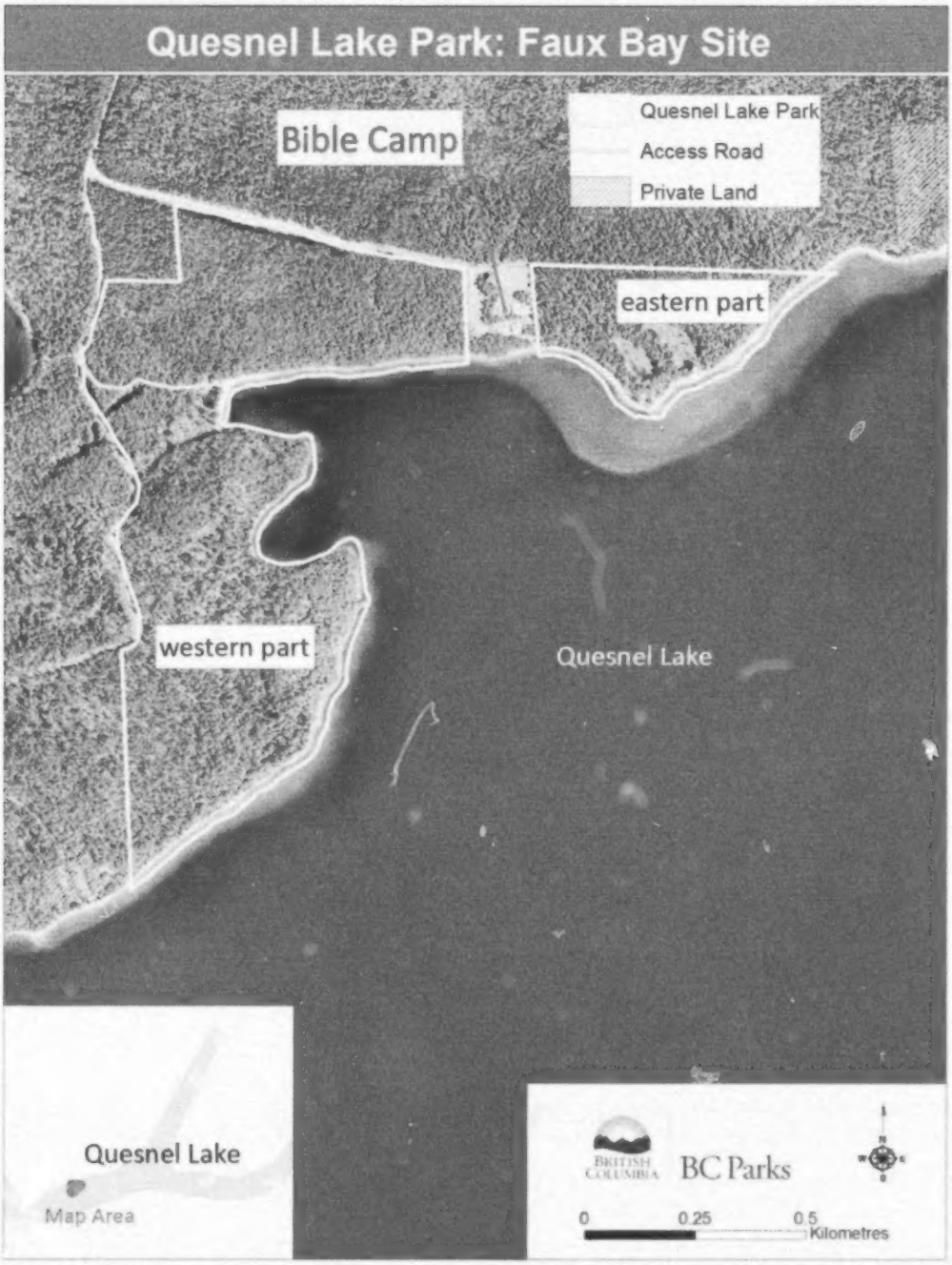

Figure 5: Map of the Faux Bay Site

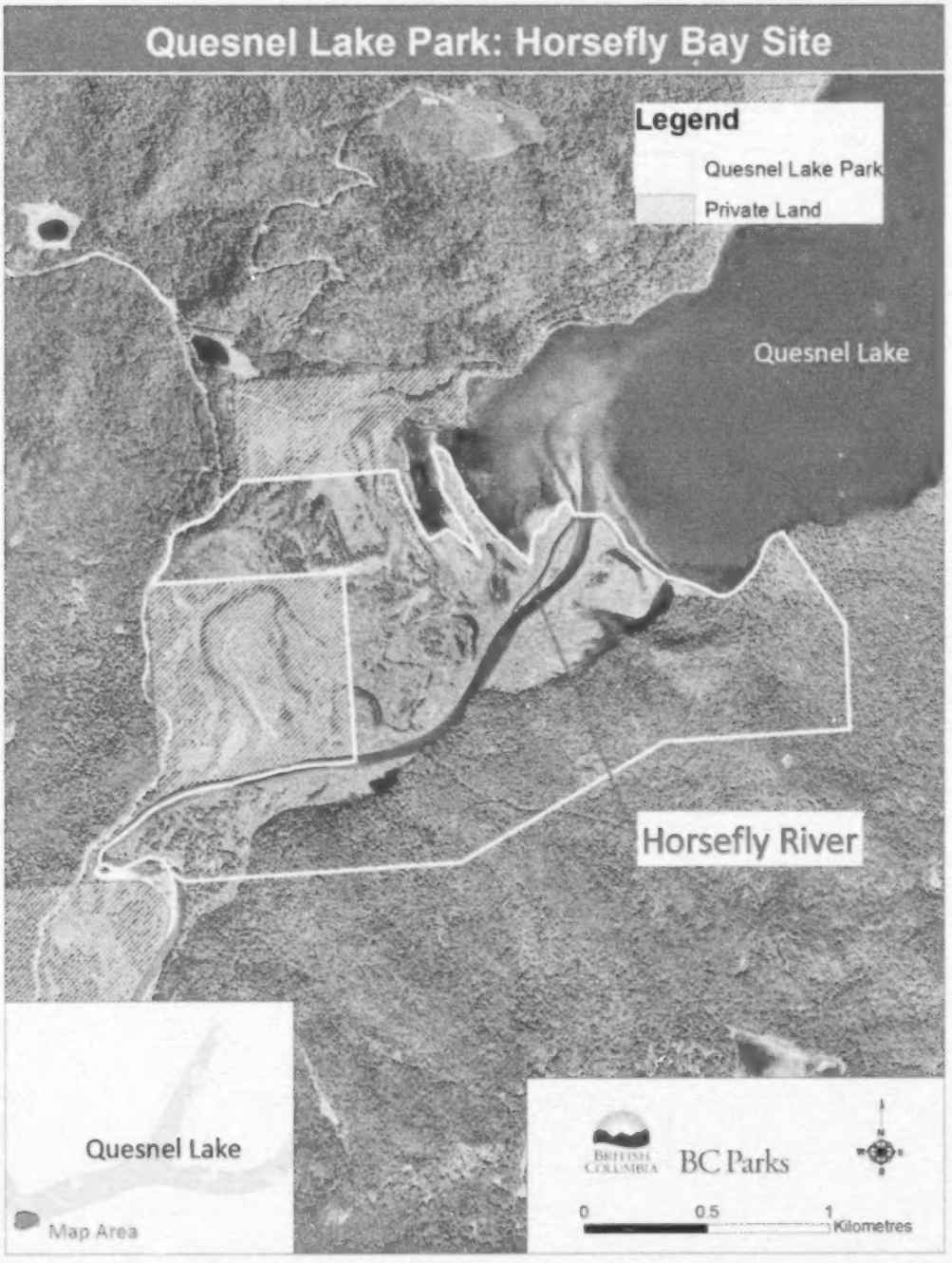

Figure 6: Map of the Horsefly Bay Site

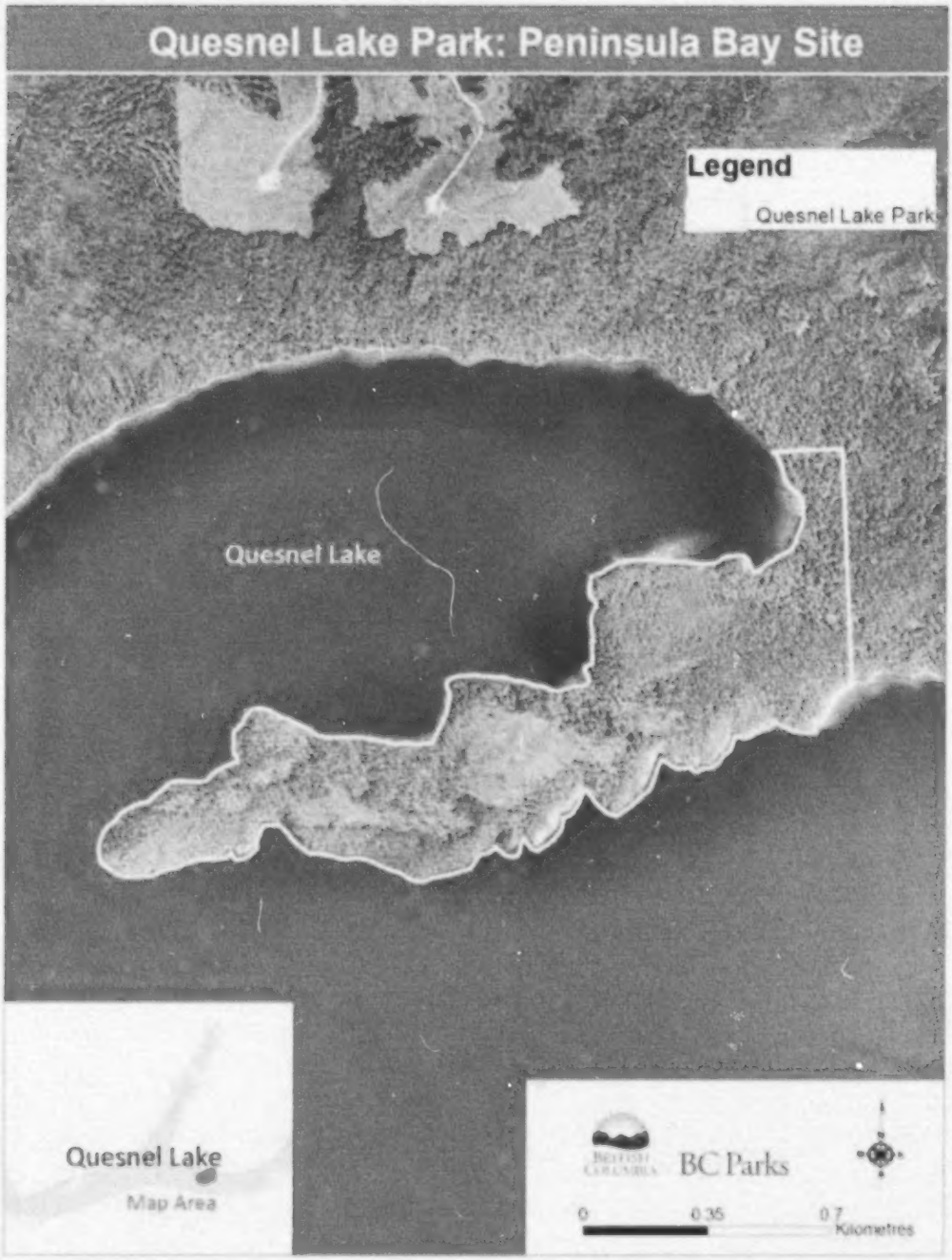

Figure 7: Map of the Peninsula Bay Site

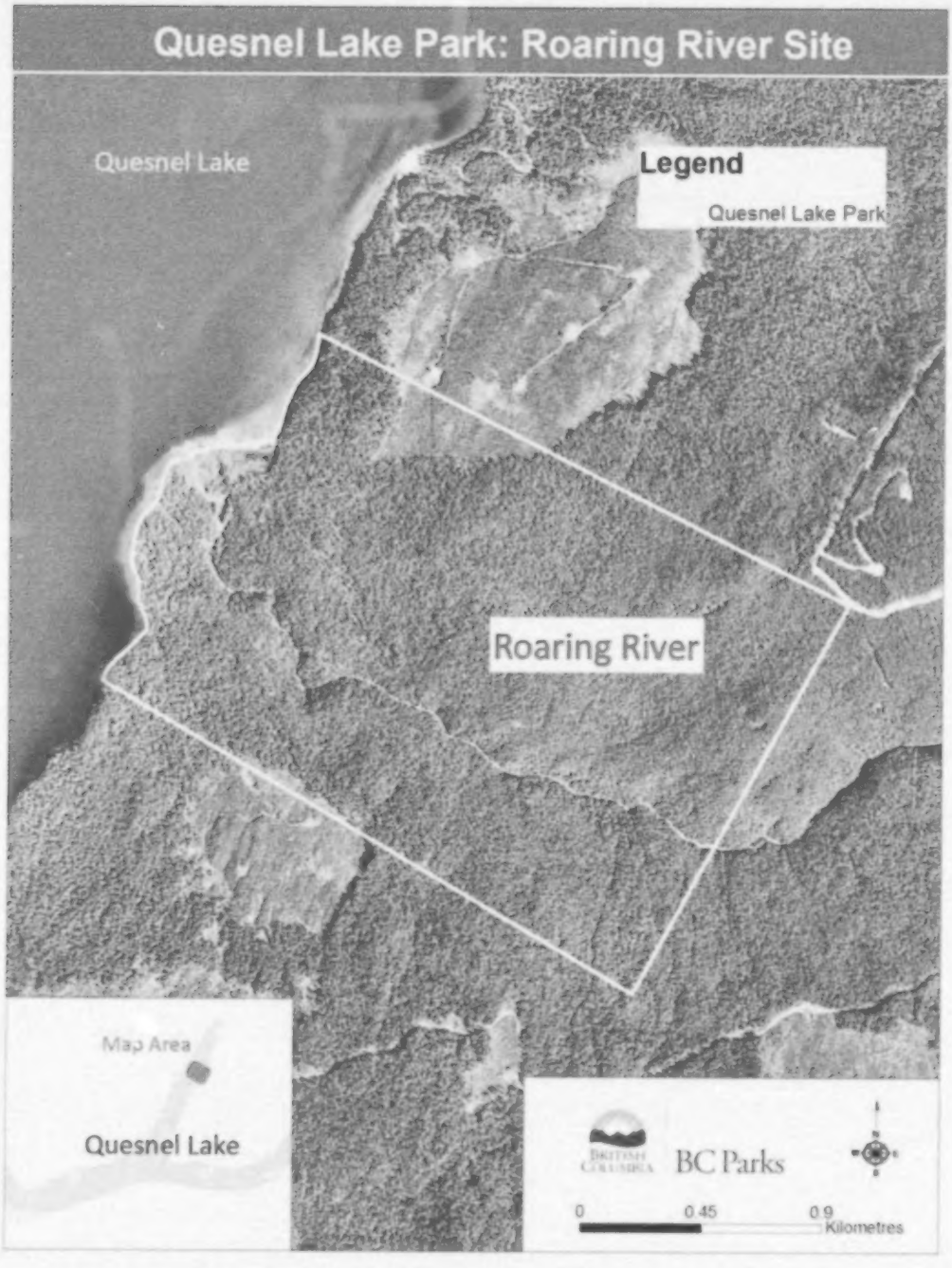

Figure 8: Map of the Roaring River Site

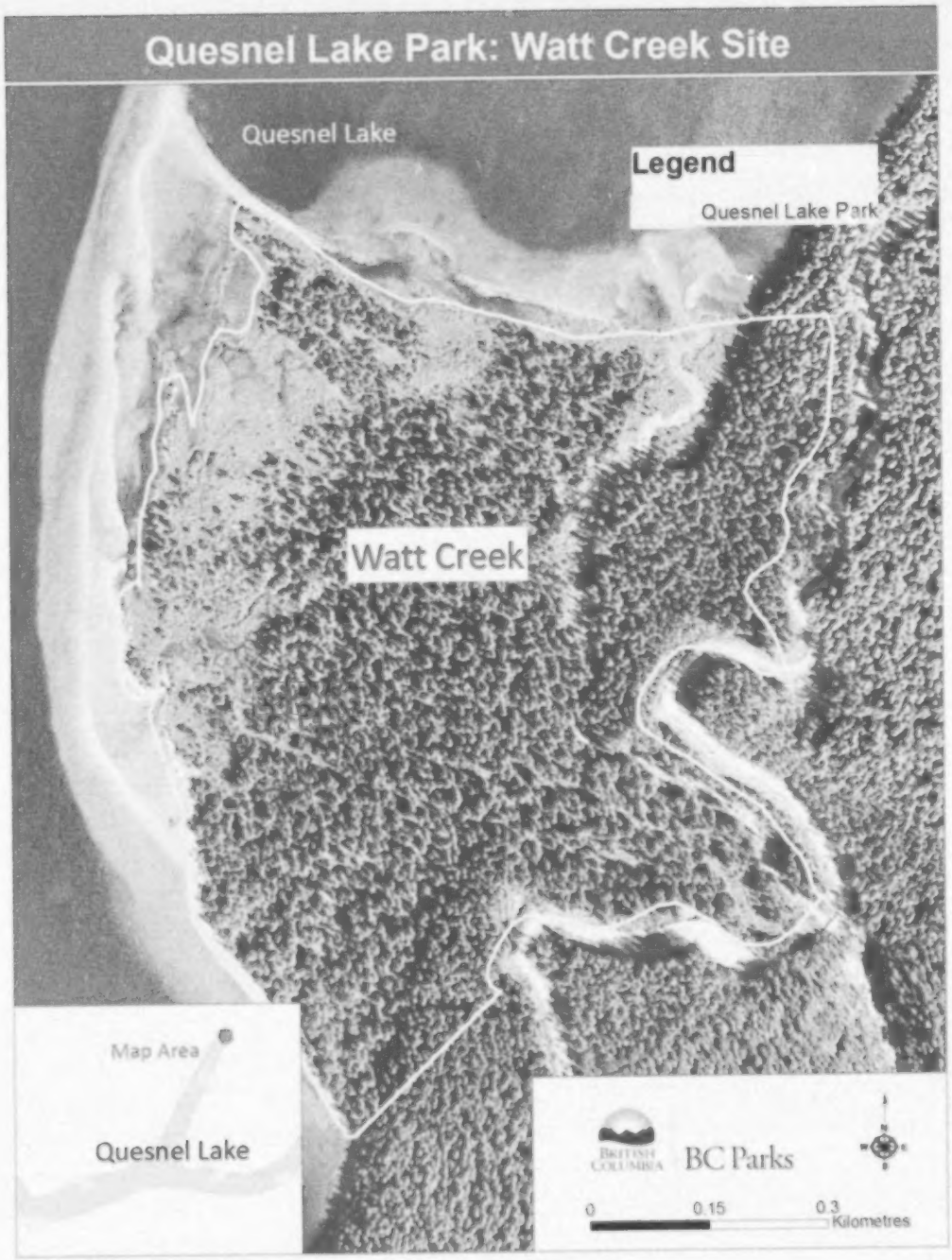

Figure 9: Map of the Watt Creek Site

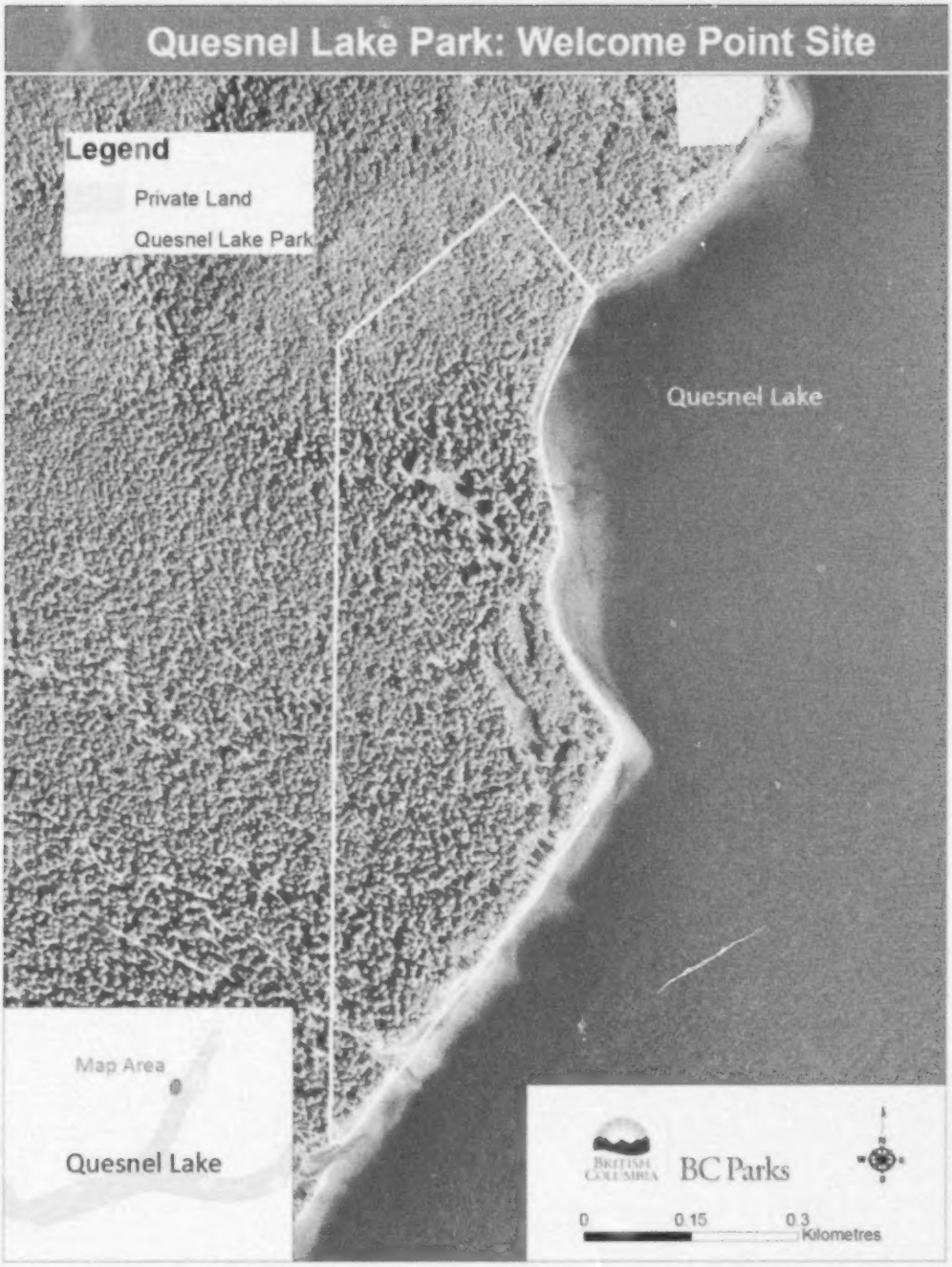

Figure 10: Map of the Welcome Point Site